

REMARKS

This reply is intended to be completely responsive to the Non-Final Office Action dated December 1, 2009.

Status of the Claims

Claims 19-23 and 76-78 are allowed, and claims 42-75 are rejected.

With this amendment, each of the rejected claims, claims 42-75, are cancelled.

Claims 19-23 and 76-78 remain pending in the application.

With the cancellation of the rejected claims, the Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

On pages 3-5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 42-75 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Muhlhausler et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,524,342, in view of Dwyer et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,122,056.

With this amendment the Applicant has canceled rejected claims 42-75 in favor of allowed claims 19-23 and 76-78. By canceling the rejected claims, the Applicant does not intend to indicate agreement with or acquiescence in the rejections set forth in the Office Action of December 1, 2009. Claims 42-75 have been canceled only to obtain prompt allowance of the claims presently allowed by the Examiner. The Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of claims 42-75 and broader and different claims, in this or future applications.

Conclusion

Claims 19-23 and 42-78 are pending in the present application. Each of the rejected claims, claims 42-75, are canceled. Claims 19-23 and 76-78 are allowed. With the cancellation

of the rejected claims, the Applicant believes that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by the credit card payment instructions in EFS-Web being incorrect or absent, resulting in a rejected or incorrect credit card transaction, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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By /James D. Borchardt/

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 26371
Telephone: (414) 319-7077
Facsimile: (414) 297-4900

James D. Borchardt
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No. 62,025